

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 03517 201723Z

45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAB-01 USIE-00

EB-11 OMB-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 FEA-02 INT-08 STR-08

ACDA-19 AF-10 DRC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 /172 W

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O R 201715Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8859

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03517

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, XF

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY'S REMARKS ON EC AND MIDDLE

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PAGE 02 LONDON 03517 201723Z

EAST

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN'S REMARKS DURING HOUSE OF COMMONS FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE MARCH 19 FOLLOWED EXPECTED LINES. CALLAGHAN (ALONG WITH MANY OTHER SPEAKERS) PAID TRIBUTE TO EFFORTS OF SECRETARY KISSINGER IN ACHIEVING PRESENT FAVORABLE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. OF BRITAIN'S ROLE HE SAID UK DOES NOT WISH TO PUSH ITSELF FORWARD, BUT WOULD BE READY TO HELP IF CALLED UPON. ANY LASTING PEACE WOULD HAVE TO BE BASED ON RESOLUTION 242, TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND THE RIGHT OF EVERY STATE IN THE AREA TO LIVE IN PEACE AND SECURITY.

2. CALLAGHAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME A DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE EEC COMMUNITY AND THE ARAB STATES. HE ASSUMED THAT NEITHER THE COMMUNITY NOR THE ARAB STATES WANTED THAT DIALOGUE TO HAMPER DR. KISSINGER'S EFFORTS TO SECURE A MEASURE OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE THOUGHT THE EEC WOULD WANT TO EXPLORE SUCH PROBLEMS FURTHER WITH THE US TO CLEAR UP ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS THAT MIGHT HAVE UNFORTUNATELY ARISEN AS TO THE LENGTH OF DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ARAB STATES AND THEIR TIMING. THERE WAS A LOT TO BE SAID FOR HAVING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ARAB STATES AS SOON AS THEY COULD GET THESE MISUNDERSTANDINGS OUT OF THE WAY.

3. CALLAGHAN ALSO SAID IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S STRONG DESIRE THAT BILATERAL TALKS ON TRADE BETWEEN BRITAIN AND THE ARAB STATES SHOULD BE INTENSIFIED. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: WHILE CALLAGHAN HAS APPARENTLY NOT MADE HIS EXACT PLANS KNOWN TO OFFICIALS IN THE FCO YET, INTERPRETATION WE GET OF HIS REMARKS FROM ASST. UNDERSECRETARY WEIR IS THAT CALLAGHAN WOULD WISH TO GO SLOW ON EEC DIALOGUE WITH ARAB COUNTRIES UNTIL HE, AND PERHAPS OTHERS OF HIS EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES, HAVE HAD CHANCE TO TALK FURTHER WITH USG. WEIR SUGGESTS CALLAGHAN MAY BE THINKING OF HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER ON MARCH 28. CALLAGHAN IS ALSO LIKELY TO

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PAGE 03 LONDON 03517 201723Z

DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH SCHEEL WHEN HE VISITS BONN FOR OVERNIGHT BILATERALS MARCH 21-22, AS WELL AS OF COURSE WITH EBAN WHEN THEY LUNCH TOGETHER IN LONDON MARCH 22 (SEE SEPTTEL).

SOHM

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NNN

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